

GLOSSARY OF GERMAN TERMS

(Taken from Office of Naval Intelligence Report on German and Russian Operations, 1940 to 1945.)

Abt. - Abteilung  
Abwehr

See: Amt.  
Literally: Defense. The term was generally applied to activities in the field of espionage and counterespionage. In particular:

Up to 1938: Intelligence Section of Reich Ministry for Defense.

1938 - 1944: Armed Forces Intelligence, Sabotage, and Counterintelligence Agency; full title "Amt Ausland/Abwehr". Its main divisions were:

Abt. Abwehr I

I (M)  
I (H)  
I (L)

Espionage Division, with

Naval Desk  
Army Desk  
Air Force Desk

Abwehr I I  
Abwehr I G

Abt. Abwehr II

II/S  
II/I

Abt. Abwehr III

III/F  
III/N

Amtsgruppe Ausland

Abt. Z.

Abwb (Abwehr-beauftragter  
Abwehr-Gruppe)

Abwehr-Kommando

Abwehr Trupp

Afu (Agentenfunk)

Aktivist

Alst

AM

Amt

Haupt

Amtsgruppe

Abt.-Abteilung

Abwehr Communications Section.

Research and Technical Services Section.

Sabotage and Infiltration Division, with  
Sabotage Section  
Infiltration Section

Counterespionage Division

Active Counterespionage Section

Censorship

Foreign Liaison Division

Administrative Division.

Industrial counterespionage agent of the RSHA.

Abwehr front-line staff, attached to Army  
Group Command.

Abwehr front-line unit, usually one Kommando  
each for Abwehr I, II, and III activities  
with each Abwehr-Gruppe.

Abwehr unit, usually several with each  
Abwehr Kommando.

Agent radio (report).

Literally: An active person. Originally used by Communists and Nazis to identify a specially active member. Used in Abwehr work as term for Russians willing to enlist in "the common cause of the struggle against Bolshevism".

Regional Intelligence Control.

German communist secret cells, esp. inside the armed and police forces, largely devoted to military espionage.

Directorate or Department, such as the Amt Ausland/Abwehr. At times several of these departments were combined into a

Main Directorate, such as the RSHA,

Division of "Amt", such as the  
"Amtsgruppe Ausland" of Abwehr.

Division of "Amt", such as Abteilung  
I, II, III of Abwehr. Also: a military  
detachment.

(There is a standard system for the German Amt, Amtsgruppe and Abeilung organization, each one of these offices appearing on various levels.)

Amt Ausland/Abwehr	See: Abwehr
Amtsgruppe Ausland	See: Abwehr
Ant (Abwehr-nebenstelle)	Branch office, operating under Ast.
Ast (Abwehrstelle)	Abwehr Field Office on German or German-occupied territory; approximately 20 Asts have been identified.
Armee	Army. The army itself was usually referred to as "Heer" (H). Its field units, however, were referred to as
AOK - Armeeober-Kommando	Command of a single army; several AOKs were combined into
(Heeres-) Gruppen-kommando	Army Group Command
(Ic	Army Intelligence Officer, attached to Group Commands, Army Commands, Corps and Divisions.)
Ausland	See: Abwehr
Ausland/Abwehr	See: Abwehr
Auslandsorganisation (A.O.)	Agency of the Nazi party concerned with party members and activities abroad.
B	Radio intercept.
Barbarossa	Code for the operational plan to attack Russia.
BB (-Apparat)	German communist secret organization for industrial espionage, according to RSHA report.
B.d.S.	See: S - Sicherheit.
BE (Berichterstatter)	Agent, esp. harbor agent, of the "Etappe" organization.
Betriebs-Zellen	Communist factory cells, reported by the RSHA.
Brandenburg Division also referred to as: Brandenburg Regiment", "Regiment 800 z.b.V."	Armed Forces unit for special assignment by Abwehr II.
Chef der Sicherheits-polizei und des SD	"Chief of the Security Police and the SD", Commander of the German Police and Nazi Party Security Forces.
Chefsache	See: gKdos.
Chi (Chiffrier)	Coding and decoding.
Chi-Nachrichten	Foreign Press and Radio Digest, issued by "Ausland".

CPN	Communist Party, Netherlands
Einsatz-Gruppe	Mobile police formation, esp. attached to the field army, comprising several Einsatz-Kommandos.
E.K. - Einsatz-Kommando	Field unit of mixed security police and SD forces.
Etappe	Secret German naval organization, operating abroad.
F (Fremd; feind)	Literally: Foreign, hostile; used as code for counterintelligence activities as well as for material of foreign origin.
FA (Forschungsamt)	Literally; research office; actually, Intelligence Agency of the Reich Minister for Air.
FAK (Frontaufklaerungskommando)	Designation of former Abwehr-Kommandos after the 1944 reorganization.
FAT (Frontaufklaerungstrupp)	Designation of former Abwehr-Trupps after the 1944 reorganization.
Fremde Heere	See: QU IV
Forscher	"Spotter"; designation of agents who selected in prisoner of war cages subjects to be enlisted for Abwehr work.
Fu - Funk	Radio.
Funkabwehr	Common term for WNV/Fu. III, the Armed Forces radio security service.
Gegenspiel	See: Speil.
Geheim	Secret.
Gestapo (Geheime Staatspolizei)	Secret State Police, Amt IV of the RSHA.
GFP (Geheime Feld-polizei)	Army Secret Field Police.
gKdos (Geheime Kommandosache)	Secret classification for armed forces material. Civilian government agencies used the term "Geheime Reichssache" for secret. gKdos material of a top-secret nature was marked in addition "Chefsache, Nur durch Offizier" (Matter for the Chief; by officer only); special officers were designated in each command to deal with Chefsache matters.
Grenzpolizei	Border Police; subordinate to the Chief RSHA, Amt IV.
GV (Gegenverbindung)	Counterconnection; term used in counter-espionage.
GV-Spiel	See: Spiel.

H - Heer - Heeresgruppe See: Armee.

Haifisch Code designations for deceptive maneuvers whereby preparations for the invasion of Russia were camouflaged as being designed for an invasion of the British Isles.

H.SS.Pf. - Hoherer SS und Polizeifuehrer Himmler's deputy in a German Wehrkreis or an occupied country, in charge of all SS and Police Forces, and supervising the activities of I.d.S. and B.D.S.

Huest - Hafeneueber-wachungsstelle Harbor control office.

I - Insurgierung Infiltration.

II/I Abwehr II branch in charge of all armed forces "I" activities.

I.d.S. See: S - Sicherheit.

Institut fuer Konjunkturforschung Institut for Market Research, sponsored by the German association of manufacturers, occasionally providing economic intelligence for the armed forces.

K (Kampf; Kleinkampf) Guerilla operations and antipartisan activities of Abwehr II units.

Kampfgruppe Irregular army unit of temporary nature.

KdM See: KMG.

Kdo. - Kommando "Command", the term being used alternatively to designate staffs or operating units.

KMG (Kommando der Meldegebiete) Regional Intelligence Control; designation given to former Ast's and KO's after the 1944 reorganization of Abwehr; also referred to as KdM. See Also: Melde.

KO (Kriegsorganisation) Abwehr agency in neutral or German-allied countries.

KPD Communist Party, Germany.

Kripo (Kriminal-Polizei) Criminal Investigation Police.

Kurfuerst. Lehr-regiment Training Regiment "Kurfuerst"; 5th Regiment of the Brandenburg Division, with Abwehr school and sabotage personnel pool.

L - Luftwaffe Air Force.

Legende Literally: Legend; term used for cover stories provided by German and Russian agencies for their espionage and counterespionage agents.

M - Marine Navy

FM "Foreign Navies", German naval intelligence reports.

Ob.d.M.	Commander in Chief, Navy.
Melde	Literally; Inform. The term used in German military parlance to identify espionage activities. From 1919 to 1944, the term "Abwehr" was substituted. By order of Himmler, the term "Melde" was reintroduced in Spring 1944.
Melde-Dienst	Intelligence Service.
Geheimer Melde-Dienst	Secret Intelligence Service - a plan to establish a "Geheimer Melde-Dienst" as central German intelligence agency was announced in 1944, but never fully carried out.
Melde-Gebiet	Operating area of FAT or FAK units; after 1944 several "Melde-Gebiete" acting under a KMG.
M.E.A. - Marineeinsatzabteilung	Naval unit for coastal reconnaissance and small scale Commando raids, operating mainly under Abwehr.
M.E.K. - MarineeinsatzKommando	Detachment of M.E.A.
Musik	In RSHA and Abwehr parlance: Radio operation.
Nachrichten	Literally: Information. The term was applied in German military and naval usage with a dual meaning (a) communications, (b) intelligence. This may be partially explained by the organization: Up to 1938 the German Naval Staff "Nachrichten" Division was responsible for communications as well as intelligence; it was then broken up into the "3rd Division" (Nachrichtenauswertung - i.e., intelligence evaluation) and the "4th Division" (Marine Nachrichtendienst - i.e., Naval Communications).
Nachrichtenauswertung	Evaluation.
Nest - Nebenstelle	See: Abwehr Anst.
NS	National-Socialist.
NSFSt	National-Socialist Guidance Staff in the Propaganda Division of the Armed Forces High Command.
Nur Fuer den Dienstgebrauch	Restricted.
OKW (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht)	Armed Forces High Command; see also: W.
Orpo - Ordnungs-polizei	Regular Police.
Pantoffelpost	"Slipper-mail"; Abwehr expression for whispering campaigns.
Pr	Propaganda

W Pr	Propaganda Division of the Armed Forces High Command.
Pr Tr	Propaganda Units, including press and photo reporters.
Pr K	Propaganda Companies, attached to frontline units.
Pz - Panzer	Armored - also designation for Abwehr troops attached to Armored Armies.
QU IV (Oberquartier-meister IV).	Assistant Chief of Staff for the evaluation of Intelligence for the Army General Staff with:
3. Abt; Fremde Heere, Ost	Russian Section.
12. Abt; fremde Heere, West	Western Section.
R (Ruecken)	"Rear": Code for stay-behind operations.
Resident	In German terminology: a stay-behind agent; in Russian terminology: A main agent abroad. The term was apparently assumed gradually from the Russian by Abwehr and RSHA staffs; its use shows variations.
RFB - Roter Front-kaempferbund	German Communist Veterans Organization.
RF-SS - Reichsfuehrer SS	Official party rank of Heinrich Himmller.
EGO - Rote Gewerk-schaftsopposition	German Communist-sponsored opposition in the unions.
Rote Kapelle	"Red Orchestra"; RSHA Special Investigation unit, assigned to infiltrate into Moscow-sponsored underground organizations by radio counterespionage and other means.
RSHA - Reichssicherheitshauptamt	Central Security Agency, divided into various Departments (see "Amt"), among them the following:
RSHA/IV, Amt IV	Secret State Police, Gestapo Amt,
IVa	Communist and related activities.
RSHA/VI, Amt VI	Foreign Countries Division.
VI/C	Eastern and Far Eastern Desks.
VI/S	Sabotage Branch.
VI/Z	Counterespionage Branch, successor to Abwehr III-F.
S-Sabotage	Sabotage
II/S	Sabotage Branch of Abwehr II.
S-Sicherheit	Security.
SD-Sicherheitsdienst	Security Service of the Nazi Party, formed from members of the SS.

Sipo - (Sicherheitspolizei) Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD	Security Police. Chief of the Security Police and the SD, in charge of all German police and party security formations, and directing activities of:
I.d.S. - Inspekteur der Sicherheit	Inspector General of Security Districts in German territories.
B.d.S. - Befehlshaber der Sicherheit	Commander Security, for Districts in German occupied territories.
SkI - Seekriegsleitung 1/SkI., Operations-abteilung 2/SkI. Nachrichten- auswertungsabteilung	Naval Staff, with: Operations Division, Naval Staff. Intelligence Evaluation Division, Naval Staff.
4/SkI., Marinennachrichtendienst	Communications Division, Naval Staff.
Sonderfuehrer	Specialist; special rank for Abwehr leaders who had not received officer-training, but exercised command authority of varying degree.
Sonderkommando	Special Unit: esp. Investigation Unit of the RSHA.
Spiel	Literally: Play, game; espionage operation carried out by the use of manipulated information.
Spielmaterial GV-Spiel; Gegenspiel	Faked Material (information). Counterespionage operation, frequently conducted by radio.
SS - Schutzstaffel	Protective squadron, i.e., the Nazi Party Elite Guard.
Waffen-Ss	Militarized branch of the SS.
Stapolste - Staats-polizeileit- stelle	Regional office of the Gestapo.
Staposte - Staats - polizeistelle	District office, subordinate to Stapolste.
Unternehmen	Literally: Undertaking; usual term for an Abwehr operation.
V (Verbindung)	Connection; term used in German espionage parlance.
V-Mann	Agent; in the East esp. any Russian national enlisted by Abwehr.
VM	Liaison man of the Etappe organization.
GV-Mann	Counterespionage agent.
VO (Verbindungs-offizier)	Liaison Officer, esp: Abwehr liaison officer attached to the Ic of army staffs.
VO, Italien	Abwehr organization in Italy, similar to KO in other countries.

Vlassov	Russian general, headed Russian national military units fighting on the German side. These units were referred to at times as "Vlassov Army", or "Army of Liberation".
W-Wehrmacht	Armed Forces. The designation of "W" in front of an office or command usually indicates that it is under the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces High Command (OKW).
WFSt (Wehrmachtsfuehrungsstab)	Operational staff of the Armed Forces High Command.
WFSt op	Operations Section of the Operational Staff, attached to Fuehrer's Field Headquarters.
WFSt op (M)	Naval Officer with Operations Staff.
WNV (Wehrmachtnachrichten-verbindung)	Armed Forces Communications Division.
WNV/Fu. III	Radio Security Service.
W Pr	Armed Forces Propaganda Division.
W Wi (Wehrwirtschaftsstab)	Armed Forces Economic Division.
Waffen SS	See: SS
Walli	Abwehr Agency, attached to Ast Ostland, Riga, for the coordination of Abwehr activities at the Russian Front.
Wannsee Institut	Research Institute, sponsored by the RSHA.
Werkschutz	Factory security guards, privately employed but supervised by government agencies.
Z (Zentralabteilung)	Administrative Section of Ausland/Abwehr.
ZA	Personnel
ZF	Finance
Zk	Central Index
SKV	Central Agents Index.
Z - Sersetzung	Disintegration and decomposition, carried out by Abwehr II.
z.b.V. (zur besonderen Verwendung, Verfuegung)	For special assignment.

Numerical Designations

Ia	Operations Section, Operations Officer.
Ic	(Army) Intelligence Officer.
I G	(Abwehr) Research and Technical Services Section.
I (H)	Army Desk at Abwehr I.
I I	(Abwehr) Communications Section
I (M)	Navy Desk at Abwehr I.
I/Skl	Naval Staff, Operations Division.
I (L)	Air Force Desk at Abwehr I.

II	General designation for Abwehr II sabotage and seditious activities.
II/I	(Abwehr) Infiltration units, activities.
II/S	(Abwehr) Sabotage units, activities.
III-F	Active counterespionage.
III-F Methoden	Active counterespionage techniques; also: Third-degree interrogation methods.
3/Skl	Naval Intelligence, Evaluation Division of Naval Staff.
III (W)	Armed Forces Desk at Abwehr III.
IV (Amt IV)	Gestapo, Secret State Police Division of the RSHA.